

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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P 312049 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104620

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS DAKAR LONDON  
PARIS

RABAT

TRIPOLI TUNIS FROM MOUAKCHOTT, REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE NOUAKCHOTT 425

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MO MR AG LY TS

SUBJECT: OULD DADDAH COMMENTS ON NORTH AFRICAN TIES

1. IN COURSE PARTICULARLY CORDIAL MAY 22 MEETING WITH  
AF/ N DIRECTOR BLAKE, PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MADE FOLLOWING  
COMMENTS ON NATURE OF GIRM' S RELATIONS WITH NORTH AFRICAN  
STATES:

A. MOROCCO--" OUR RELATIONS ARE VERY GOOD." MAURITANIA  
OWES KING DEBT OF GRATITUDE FOR HAVING ENGINEERED  
MOROCCAN RECOGNITION OF THIS COUNTRY' S INDEPENDENCE,  
CULMINATING IN 1969 OULD DADDAH- HASSAN MEETING AT  
RABAT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE. IF ROYAL PROTOCOL TENDED  
RESTRICT SCOPE OF THEIR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, IT  
REMAINED ONE OF BASIC RESPECT AND FRIENDSHIP. ( COMMENT.  
PRESIDENT VOLUNTEERED NOTHING RE SPANISH SAHARAN DISPUTE.)

B. ALGERIA-- PERHAPS BECAUSE ALGERIA SHARES MAURITANIA' S  
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REPUBLICAN STYLE INSTITUTIONS, PRESIDENT' S PERSONAL CONTACTS WITH BOUMEDIENNE ARE EASIER AND MORE DIRECT THAN THOSE WITH HASSAN. IN HIS VARIOUS COMMENTS, OULD DADDAH MANIFESTED SPECIAL ADMIRATION FOR BOUMEDIENNE' S LEADERSHIP.

C. TUNISIA-- LACK OF COMMON BORDER AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTANCE HAS LIMITED MAURITANIAN- TUNISIAN CONTACTS, BUT THIS COUNTRY REMAINS GRATEFUL FOR PROOF OF TUNISIAN FRIENDSHIP FURNISHED AT INDEPENDENCE IN 1961.

2. COMMENTING BRIEFLY ON LIBYA, OULD DADDAH NOTED HE HAD LAST SEEN QADHAFI FIVE MONTHS AGO AND HAD NO WAY OF ASSESSING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT COUNTRY. NOTABLY, PRESIDENT DID NOT DODGE QUESTION OF GIRM- GOL TIES BY ANY SUCH BLAND STATEMENT AS THEY WERE " EXCELLENT ." INSTEAD HE DISPLAYED UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN TRIPOLI.

3. COMMENT. HAVE NOTED FONMIN MOUKNASS ALSO RESTRAINED IN DISCUSSING LIBYAN DEVELOPMENTS AND LIBYAN- MAURITANIAN RELATIONS DURING OUR RECENT MEETINGS. THE RETURN HOME LAST NOVEMBER OF MAURITANIA' S SHREWD AMBASSADOR TO TRIPOLI, SULEIMAN OULD CHEIKH SIDYA, HAS DEPRIVED THIS LEADERSHIP OF ANY SPECIAL INSIGHTS INTO THE LIBYAN SCENE. WE REPORTED SOME MONTHS AGO MAURITANIAN DISMAY OVER PROSPECTPVE LIBYAN- EGYPTIAN UNION AND MORE RECENTLY NOUAKCHOTT' S PLEASURE AT ELICITING KUWAITI AND SAUDI AID PROMISES IN CONTEXT OF ITS SEEKING DIVERSIFY AMONG ITS ARAB WORLD BENEFACTORS.

UNQUOTE RUSH

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